

so that these 26 Senators may get votes in relation to their amendments.

I now call up that amendment, which is at the desk, on behalf of Senators KENNEDY and SPECTER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), for Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. SPECTER, proposes an amendment numbered 1934.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

Mr. DEMINT. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The clerk will continue to read.

The assistant legislative clerk continued with the reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MENENDEZ). The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in light of our discussion with the distinguished majority leader under which we won't take further action until tomorrow, so we can begin to digest this mammoth amendment, I move to waive reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I did have a conversation with the junior Senator from Louisiana and a number of his colleagues. I think it is only fair that they have the evening and night to work on this big piece of legislation. It took a lot longer to get here, as always happens. It is "always on its way," be here "right away," "another 5 minutes."

Of course, it took several hours. I think in fairness, it is only the right thing to do. We are going to come back at 10 o'clock in the morning. There will be no morning business tomorrow. I would say to all Senators, there is a briefing that starts at 10 o'clock with Admiral McConnell. I have not had the opportunity to speak to him yet. But I am confident that for any Senators who are unable to go to that briefing because of being obligated to be here on the Senate floor, another time can be arranged that he and/or his staff would be happy to come and visit with another group of Senators. So we are not going to be in recess during the time of that briefing. But I would hope tomorrow we can get some movement on this bill, and the Senator from Louisiana and others will better understand this tomorrow, and make a decision of how if, in fact, they want to proceed, along with a number of others.

So that being the case, I express my appreciation to the Senator from Louisiana and his colleagues we met with earlier today.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a pe-

riod of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be no more votes tonight.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a colleague and a friend—someone whose presence is missed but whose legacy will undoubtedly endure.

Senator Craig Thomas was a westerner through and through. The story of his life reflects the spirit of the West—his work ethic, his strength of character, and his love for the land and resources of his cherished Wyoming.

Craig's life lessons were formed as a summer horseback guide, as a competitive wrestler, as a marine, as a husband, and as a father. He brought those lessons with him to Washington, D.C., as a Congressman and a Senator, and he never forgot them or strayed from them. That is clear from the issues he held closest to his heart.

As a fellow westerner, I always admired Craig's commitment to being an exemplary steward of our national parks. His love for them probably developed during his childhood summers around Yellowstone National Park, but he was able to translate that passion into monumental improvements that generations of Americans will enjoy.

He also worked tirelessly on issues impacting public land management, agriculture, rural healthcare, and fiscal responsibility—all issues that greatly benefited his constituents in Wyoming. And they understood and appreciated his advocacy for their well being by electing him time and again to represent them in the Nation's Capital.

Craig definitely had a special presence on Capitol Hill. He never gave up a fight; he had a certain grit that drew others to him; and he loved to joke around—all tributes that led to his being described as a cowboy or a Western hero.

The epitome of the American cowboy, John Wayne, has inscribed on his headstone: "Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learnt something from yesterday."

Craig Thomas treated every "tomorrow" as a new and exciting opportunity

to make a difference for the people of Wyoming and the United States. He loved his work; he loved his family; and he loved life. While he is no longer serving as the voice of the westerner in the Senate, his years of dedicated service ensured that his legacy will survive.

Craig was a statesman and a leader, a fighter and a friend. The Thomas family, the people of Wyoming, and those of us who worked with Craig will always remember the spirit of Western freedom, trusted integrity, and heartfelt kindness that he embodied. We are all fortunate to have known such a remarkable person.

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am proud to submit S. Con. Res. 39, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims. This resolution is the Senate companion to H. Con. Res. 87, which was recently submitted in the House.

Each crash might seem to us, in its immediacy, like an isolated tragedy, but when we step back, we see that each has its part in a global crisis that is deepening year by year. The day of remembrance—set by the United Nations General Assembly for the third Sunday of November—is not just for the 40,000 people who die in road crashes each year in America; it is for the 1.2 million who die in crashes in every part of the world and for the staggering 20 to 50 million who are injured. In fact, the World Health Organization predicts that, by the year 2020, the death rate from crashes each year will surpass the death rate from AIDS.

True, many of these crashes are unique disasters, but that leaves many more whose causes are systemic and preventable. Unsafe roads, poor medical facilities, and inadequate driver education all contribute their share to the death toll. And unsurprisingly, the toll is highest, and rising, in middle- and low-income countries. Road safety, then, is an issue of economic justice.

On the world day of remembrance, we will recall all of the victims of road crashes; we keep their families in our thoughts, and we pray for the full recovery of those still living. But our compassion for individuals must not obscure the bigger picture. "We have to change the way we think about crashes," said Diza Gonzaga, the mother of a car-crash victim in Brazil. "The majority of people think that crashes are due to fate. We have to think of a crash as a preventable event."

MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any